TO: Illinois State Board of Education

FROM: Robert E. Schiller, Superintendent
      Christopher A. Koch, Director

Agenda Topic: School District Showcase:
               Quincy School District 172/ Irving Elementary School

Materials: Invitation Letter to Quincy School District 172 from
           Superintendent Schiller

Staff Contact(s): Sheryl Poggi

Purpose of Agenda Item

To highlight Irving School’s accomplishments, the reasons for the improvements, and to
engage in a communication with the State Board about improvement strategies and
issues and problems the district faces.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

The Board will gain understanding of local district challenges and improvement
strategies, to guide policy discussions related to school improvement statewide.

Background Information

Quincy is located in Adams County in far western Illinois, along the Mississippi River.
Quincy schools serve a wide range of students, with low income student percentages
ranging from 12% to nearly 90% in the elementary schools. Total district enrollment is
6,659 students. Data for 1999-2000 report a per-pupil operating expenditure of $6,769,
below the state average of $7,483.

Irving School enrolls about 190 students, 84% low income and 21% minority. The
school has a 36.5% mobility rate.

District and school representatives will review recent achievement gains at Irving
Elementary School and discuss strategies for continuous improvement of student
achievement. They will also delineate the challenges they face and the barriers they
encounter in their efforts. The interaction with the Board will inform Board members as
they consider policies and programs for schools statewide.
Next Steps
Various school districts around the state will be invited to showcase specific improvement strategies over the course of the year.

Showcase schools and districts will be highlighted on ISBE’s website.